

in the sum of Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars, which note shall be presented for collection on maturity and shall upon collection be credited to the account of the drawer of the note as his payment for the second year toward the creation of such Malpractice Indemnity Fund. In the event that not more than three hundred (300) members shall so contribute by paying Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars and transmitting with such payment a promissory note as herein indicated before December 31, 1916, such sum of Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars and such promissory note shall forthwith be returned to such contributing member.

All payments out of the Malpractice Indemnity Fund shall be made by check signed by a majority of the three trustees of the fund upon presentation to them of a bill of costs for judgment, the amount of compromise settlement or the like, which bill shall have been duly prepared by the attorneys of the Medical Society of the State of California and signed by them with the statement that it is correct as to amount and desirability.

4. Any questions which may arise in the course of the administration of this undertaking shall be settled by the Council except as hereinbefore stated, namely, the charge and administration of the fund and the payments therefrom, and further as to any use of such fund or funds other than for the purposes hereinbefore stated.

5. The Malpractice Indemnity Fund herein referred to may be divided and distributed to the living contributors thereto at any time upon the consent thereto in writing of two-thirds of the living contributors to the fund. The fund shall not be diverted from the purposes specified or disposed of in any other way except upon similar action, namely, the consent in writing of two-thirds of the living contributors.

6. Any member contributing to this fund who shall cease to be a member of the Medical Society of the State of California for any reason shall thereby lose and forfeit all of his interest whatsoever in this fund. Any interest which any contributing member possesses in this fund is inherent in himself personally and may not be transferred, assigned, or disposed of in any way save by his termination of membership in the Medical Society of the State of California as hereinbefore provided.

7. If and when the Malpractice Indemnity Fund shall by virtue of payments made therefrom be reduced to an amount considered by the Council of the Medical Society of the State of California to be an unsafe amount, the said Council may then levy upon the contributing members a further assessment of not less than Fifteen (\$15.00) Dollars a year for one or two years, as in their judgment may seem proper, which assessment shall be payable in the same manner as the original payments.

8. Any member at any time in future during the existence of the Malpractice Indemnity Fund, as herein described, may contribute to the fund as provided for herein and upon such additional terms as the Council may prescribe and thereby receive the benefits to be derived from such participation.

9. Save and except as to the distribution of the fund or its diversion to some other purpose, the Council may make any changes or alterations in these rules, or may adopt such other and different rules and regulations as it may deem proper, necessary and appropriate.

THE VALUE OF A MEDICAL LICENSE IN CALIFORNIA.

From time to time the JOURNAL will publish illustrating examples of the satisfactory way in which the present medical law and its administration are admitting to practice in this State persons with little or no qualification. We have already given one or two such instances, and here is another. Dr. "John Doe" was licensed by the present Board of Medical Examiners April 29, 1915. His previous record is as follows: He took the examination in December, 1909, and received a mark of 42.9%, in addition to which he was caught cheating. He took the examination August 23, 1909, and failed with a mark of 58.1%. Later he went to Oregon and obtained a license, and in 1913 applied for reciprocity license in this State, and was refused. In 1914, he again took the examination, and failed with a mark of 58.1%. Subsequently his papers of the examination in 1914 were reviewed, he was raised two points in one or two subjects, and then allowed 1% a year for 12 years practice, and was given a license to practice in California. The Board is to be congratulated upon its efficient protection of our citizens!

THE HARRISON NARCOTIC LAW.

In the first place, let it be said that the purpose and intent of the law are beyond all question of the greatest benefit to society, to physicians, and to persons who come to physicians as patients. There are, however, numerous things about it that are vexatious. Some of the rules made are absurd, and it would be practically impossible for any physician actively to practice his profession and not violate some of these rules and regulations. For instance, in the matter of absurdity, treasury decision 2213 learnedly lays down the rule that a physician's prescription, when made up, is a preparation and not a remedy. One is reminded of many wise questions that have been propounded; as, for instance, "Why is a red hot stove?" It is also somewhat annoying to see incompetent and unfitted persons on the payroll of the Government making silly and bothersome rules of this kind, and at the same time read from the court report in a newspaper that a man running a regular business in selling narcotics to drug fiends, when arrested, was penalized only to the extent of 30 days in the county jail. Physicians as a class are doing a great deal, by conforming willingly to the Harrison Law, toward the end of suppressing the habit-forming drug evil. However, if society wishes to rid itself of this pest, it will have to cooperate with physicians in future more than it has in the past.